



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2019
FROM: Directors Mack and Geary, Board Legislative Liaisons

For Introduction: October 16, 2019
For Action: November 6, 2019

1. TITLE

2019-20 Legislative Agenda

2. PURPOSE

The annual Legislative Agenda is the formal statement of the District's legislative priorities from the School Board to members of the state and federal legislatures. Because it is the District's official position, the Board must take action to approve the Agenda, per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative Program & Advocacy.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board adopt the 2019-20 Legislative Agenda, as attached to the Board action report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background:** The Board traditionally adopts a legislative agenda to share the District's focus and priorities for the upcoming legislative session with the Washington State Legislature. These legislative priorities were developed with consideration to the current budget outlook and the District's strategic plan. Although the Legislative Agenda is typically focused on a limited number of priorities, the formal Agenda does not limit District input on other topics.

The 2019-20 proposed legislative agenda is focused on three main areas:

- Services, Supports, and Staffing for the Whole Child to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap
- Increase State Funding to Reflect True Cost of Capital Facilities
- Ensure High-Quality and Culturally Responsive Educators in Every Classroom

The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to ensure that the legislature understands the critical needs of Seattle Public Schools.

- b. **Alternatives:** The alternative is to not approve the Legislative Agenda. This option is not recommended because policy requires the Board to take action and it is very important the District take a stance on the important issues that affect Seattle Public Schools.

- c. **Research:** The legislative agenda from the prior year was reviewed in developing this agenda. In addition, legislative priorities identified by the Washington State Directors' Association (WSSDA) were also reviewed. The Board's legislative liaisons worked with district staff and the district's lobbyist to ensure the highest priorities of the District were named.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The fiscal impact of creating the Legislative Agenda is negligible; however, the Legislative Agenda itself has the potential to bring revenue to the District if the Legislature implements the priorities.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

While this item was not formally taken through the community engagement tool, upon discussion with the Communications department, N/A was identified because engagement will occur with districts across the state, as well as other key partners and stakeholders throughout the legislative session.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

The legislative agenda is based on three of the priorities in the district's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan: High-Quality Instruction and Learning Experiences, Predictable and Consistent Operations, and Culturally Responsive Workforce. In particular, the agenda asks the legislature to provide services, supports, and staffing for the whole child to eliminate the opportunity gap and to support programs that focus on reducing disproportionate discipline, increase student supports for students furthest away from educational justice, and reduce discrimination.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

The priorities on the legislative agenda include providing for the academic, social, cultural, emotional, and behavioral needs of students in every school; enabling warm, welcoming, and safe learning environments; funding capital projects; and supporting legislation that helps to support strategies for equitable student outcomes. All of these asks have the potential for significant student benefit.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, the Board is responsible for developing annual federal and state legislative agendas for the District that are consistent with the furtherance of the District’s current strategic plan.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the October 10, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward for approval pending some edits to the document.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, the Legislative Agenda will be sent to the Seattle delegation in the Washington State Legislature and other key partners including the Governor’s Office, Mayor’s Office, and the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), as well as being used during the legislative session.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- 2019-20 Legislative Agenda (clean - for approval)

Seattle Public Schools
State and Federal Legislative Agenda – 2019-20



Seattle Excellence: Educate. Engage. Empower.

SPS has three priorities for this session in alignment with the district's strategic plan goals:

1. **Services, Supports, and Staffing for the Whole Child to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap**
2. **Increase State Funding to Reflect True Cost for Capital Facilities**
3. **Ensure High-Quality and Culturally Responsive Educators in Every Classroom**

High-Quality Instruction and Learning Experiences:

1. **Provide Services, Supports, and Staffing for the Whole Child to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap**

- *Provide for the academic, social, cultural, emotional, and behavioral needs of students in every school:* Increase allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model for staff such as nurses, counselors, mental health workers, and librarians.
- *Ensure services can be provided for student needs (e.g. Special Education, English Language Learners and Highly Capable):* Provide increases to State and Federal categorical funding that reflect the student needs in schools and school districts, including an increase in the special education multiplier.
- *Enable warm, welcoming, and safe learning environments:* Provide for comprehensive school safety measures.

Predictable and Consistent Operations:

2. **Increase State Funding to Reflect True Cost of Capital Facilities**

- *Update the State's outdated School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP):* The current state school construction formula needs to be adjusted to provide sufficient funding for needed renovation and new construction projects by increasing the funding per square foot.
- *Provide directed State capital assistance:* Support funding for facilities with critical capacity, safety, security, and environmental sustainability needs.

Culturally Responsive Workforce:

3. **Ensure High-Quality and Culturally Responsive Educators in Every Classroom**

- *Support competitive salaries and professional development:* Fund efforts to assist in recruiting and retaining diverse, high-quality, and culturally responsive staff.
- *Promote strategies for equitable student outcomes:* Support programs that focus on reducing disproportionate discipline, increase supports for students furthest away from educational justice, and reduce discrimination.
- *Fully fund the costs of implementing the School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) Program*